



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
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By

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SB 558 SD2 – RELATING TO VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS

Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 558 SD2, which establishes under the Agribusiness Development Corporation, a “food and product innovation network” that provides access to facilities, resources, expertise and education to capitalize on the “Made in Hawai'i”, “Produced in Hawai'i”, or “Processed in Hawai'i” brand, critical for meeting the State’s agricultural and economic diversification goals.

Synergies between partners and primary network members can expand access statewide, and leverage resources while avoiding unnecessary duplication in support of innovation and business development.

A key factor in the success of exports and commercialization of value-added products is the establishment of facilities with the capacity to support growing businesses as they scale up production, to support economic diversification through offshore markets in all counties, supporting commodities and off-grades in each region.

SB 558 SD2 further defines “Wider network” and “World-class products” emphasizing the need for coordination to access resources, including equipment and know-how, to support product development that meets international standards for quality, safety, sustainability, and market competitiveness. This is critical for the state’s economic development through value-added product development, capitalizing on exports.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 558 SD2, on the condition its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 558 SD2.